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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6840  
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0077  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0153  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DOHA 000709

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [XF](#) [AL](#) [QA](#)  
SUBJECT: SOMALIS MEET IN QATAR, REJECT RECONCILIATION  
CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 90990  
[1](#)B. 05 DOHA 324  
[1](#)C. 05 DOHA 337

Derived from: DSCG 05-1, B,D.

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. A local NGO affiliated with Islamic hard-liners hosted Somali activists in Doha for a conference June 7-8 2007. Sheikh Sharif of the Islamic Courts movement and Sharif Hassan, former parliamentary speaker, participated. The event was paid for through a hard-line Sunni organization called the Global Anti-Agression Campaign. Conferees were united in their opposition to the Ethiopian presence in Somalia and to the national reconciliation conference planned for July 15. The Somalis reportedly departed Doha after the conference. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) Dr. Abdurrahman bin Omair al-Nuaimi, director of the Arab Center for Studies and Research, told P/E Chief July 3 that his organization had hosted approximately 15 Somalis for a conference June 7-8 entitled "Foreign Interventions and the Future of the African Horn." The Somali group included former Islamic Courts leader Sheikh Sharif and former parliamentary speaker Sherif Hassan, as well as representatives from civil society organizations based in the United States, Canada, the UK, Sweden, France, and other countries. Al-Nuaimi reported that the Somali visitors had stayed in the Millenium Hotel in Doha for the period of the conference. Expenses were covered by the Global Anti-Agression Campaign, a hard-line Sunni grouping (Refs B, C). After the conference, all the participants departed Doha, according to al-Nuaimi. Sheikh Sharif reportedly traveled to Asmara.

[1](#)3. (C) Al-Nuaimi explained that the Somalis included both members the Courts movement and secularists. All were united on the point of opposition to the presence of Ethiopian troops in Somalia. Al-Nuaimi claimed he had talked to the Somalis about traveling to the July 15 reconciliation conference but they refused to consider the idea.

[1](#)4. (U) According to a local press report dated June 8, a session June 7 focusing on the Ethiopian "occupation" was moderated by Farah Moallem Mohamed. Jama Mohamed Ghalib and Mohamed Ahmed Nour (President of the Committee of Somalis Abroad) spoke in this session. The second session dealt with "ethnic cleansing in Mogadishu"; Mohamed Nour, Omar Hashi, and Mohamed Mohamed Ghandi were named as speakers. A entitled "A Political Program for Saving Somalia," moderated by Abdulla Hussein Kahiya and with Mohamed al-Amin Mohamed al-Hadi, Mohamed Abdulla, and Zakaria Haji Mohamoud as speakers, was on the schedule for June 8. The press report stated that the conference had 30 participants, all of whom were considered in opposition to "the current regime in Mogadishu." The most prominent organizations represented were the Council of the Islamic Courts, led by Sheikh Sharif, and the "Free

Parliamentary Faction," led by Yousef Hassan Adam, and the Committee of Somalis Abroad based in Canada, and civil society organizations from inside Somalia.

¶5. (C) In his meeting with P/E Chief, Al-Nuaimi claimed that the vast majority of Somalis in Somalia also oppose the Ethiopian troops and that the U.S. had made a mistake in backing them. "The U.S. should have encouraged the CIC," he said, when it demonstrated that it could restore some measure of security and order to the landscape.

¶6. (C) P/E Chief spoke with Somali Ambassador to Qatar, Sharif Mohamed Omar, July 2. Though not in touch with the Somali opposition, he was not aware of any prominent figures taking up residence in Qatar. Neither has Post seen any signs of Sheikh Sharif or others lingering in Doha after the June conference. (Note. Emboffs will remain alert to the activities in Doha of important Somali political figures.)

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Comment  
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¶6. (C) While there was no direct government support for the June conference, it had the tacit blessing of the GOQ. Al-Nuaimi is closely watched because of his hard-line tendencies, and the fact visas were obtained and funding secured through the Global Anti-Agression Campaign indicates a green light. In addition, Sheikh Sharif met the Amir in Doha during Ramadan in October 2006, and a foreign ministry official expressed sympathy with the CIC movement during a meeting with P/E Chief because it had, he said, briefly provided stability to the country. The Qataris have a recent history of seeking mediation roles in regional conflicts

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(Palestine, Lebanon), usually on the side of the groups the U.S. opposes (Hamas, Hizballah).

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Bio Note  
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¶7. (C) Abdurrahman bin Omair al-Nuaimi is a political activist currently training Qataris for involvement in election campaigns expected in 2008. He is a Islamist hard-liner who was jailed by the Amir in approximately 2000 for criticism of his wife's public role. (Al-Nuaimi is critical of women taking up public leadership positions.) He served as local organizer for the hard-line Sunni "Global Anti-Agression Campaign" organizing conference in Doha in 2005 (<http://qawim.net>).

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